



Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 256502 |
| Inspection date | 10 February 2006 |
| Inspector | Christina Jane Howkins-Griffiths |
| Type of inspection | Childcare |
| Type of care | Childminding |

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1997. He works as a registered childminder with his wife and has provide flexible care between them. They have 2 children aged 14 and 18 and live in a village on the north side of Norwich. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time and is currently minding 10 children under 8 on a part-time and full-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group and the childminder group. He is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health is promoted well as the childminder takes positive steps to promote the children's good health and encourages them to begin to take responsibility of meeting their own health needs. Positive steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures taken when children are ill so that health needs are met. A detailed procedure is in place that has been shared with parents and they are kept up to date through regular discussion and newsletters about any illness issues.

Children enjoy excellent opportunities to experience physical activity and develop their skills. The childminder plans a range of activities that enable children to develop their confidence on a wide range of equipment that provides a challenge. Children learn to lead a healthy lifestyle because they have regular exercise each day. Children are also learning about dental hygiene and are encouraged to brush their teeth after main meals.

Children are well nourished and have excellent opportunities to learn about healthy eating because the childminder provides children with regular drinks and food that are nutritious and complies with their dietary and religious needs. The childminder enables children to learn about healthy living through a range of inspiring activities that develop the children's understanding of what foods are good for them including food tasting opportunities and growing fruit and vegetables to have for snack times.

Younger children are developing their independence physically and emotionally. They are active and are becoming increasingly independent, acquiring control over their bodies and new physical skills. They are learning to express their needs and are beginning to meet those needs independently for example, by being able to access water for themselves. As they grow the children become more aware of their own bodies and develop an awareness of others and their needs. The childminder has good understanding of the needs of younger children and provides appropriate activities and resources to support children's physical and emotional development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are safe and very well cared for in premises that are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose because the childminder ensures that the environment gives them good access to a comprehensive range of facilities that successfully promote children's development. The large outdoor play space is used throughout the year and allows a flexible range of activities to take place with children of a variety of ages. The children always use a wide range of equipment that is suitable and safe. This is because the childminder provides furniture, equipment and toys which are appropriate for their purpose. They are of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards.

Safety is promoted because the childminder takes positive steps within the home and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents. However, at the time of the

inspection the childminder went out to collect a child from school in the car. He did not have a mobile phone or any emergency contact details with him in case of emergency. Children are learning to keep themselves safe because the childminder encourages children to begin to understand about safety issues both within the setting and outside. For example, children took part in a road safety campaign with the childminding group and shared the information with parents to ensure consistency between carers and home environment.

Children are well protected because the childminder has an understanding of his role in child protection and is able to put appropriate procedures into practice if necessary. He is due to update his knowledge in this area in coming months.

Younger children are able to investigate and explore their surroundings safely. They begin to understand there are rules and boundaries that keep them safe. They develop an increasing understanding of how to keep themselves safe and self control in order that they don't hurt others. The childminder ensures that children use appropriate and safe equipment and encourages children to become aware of their own safety and that of others.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder is currently minding 14 children aged 12 months to 12 years. Clear information is gathered to enable childminder to meet individual needs. The childminder offers flexible care tailored to each child with consistent, daily routines in place. He has been minding for 9 years and has sound knowledge of child development which enables him to offer appropriate activities and play opportunities for children of a variety of ages.

Children are confident, independent and developing their self-esteem. They ask questions and respond to new challenges by questioning and they use their own initiative. All children have their individual needs met and are developing a good range of knowledge and skills because the childminder plans and provides activities and play opportunities that they are interested in.

Children begin to distinguish right from wrong and form positive relationships because the childminder has consistent boundaries and supports them appropriately including gentle reminders about sharing with each other and turn taking. The childminder listens to the children attentively and values their increasing confidence and communication skills.

The childminder is beginning to use the 'Birth to three matters' framework document and is due to attend training for this during March 2006. He is already covering many aspects for the 'Birth to three matters' document although the training will support this further. Younger children are encouraged to become vocal, for example through imitation and begin to use appropriate language and signs to communicate their needs. Older children want to communicate their thoughts, ideas and experiences, using language appropriately. They use their growing language skills to socialise and begin to negotiate with others.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are developing good relationships with adults and other children in a setting where the childminder works with parents and carers to meet individual children's needs and ensure they are fully included in the life of the setting. Children are able to feel a sense of belonging, work harmoniously with others and make choices and decisions. These all contribute to developing good self-esteem and respect for others. The childminder ensures that he knows all children well and that they are provided with equality of opportunity. He ensures that there is no bias in his practice in relation to gender race or disability and is pro-active in ensuring that appropriate action can be taken to support children with identified needs. As a result children receive appropriate support. Children are developing an understanding of the wider society because the childminder has an excellent range of resources and toys that show positive images of people from within our diverse society.

Children understand responsible behaviour and learn about boundaries because the childminder is able to manage a range of children's behaviour. The childminder deals with behaviour consistently in a way that is proportionate to each child's level of understanding and maturity. The childminder creates an environment that encourages children to behave well through consistent house rules that are shared and on display for parents.

Children's needs are being met well because the childminder works well with parents and carers to enable all children to achieve in their care and learning. The childminder has a good understanding of the importance of working with parents and of how this benefits the child. A parent notice board and informative newsletters keep parents up to date with activity themes, reminders and health information. The exchange of daily information takes place at arrival and collection times through discussion, however this could be extended further to give parents more information about their child's development, progress and daily activities.

Younger children are developing an awareness of themselves and finding out what they can do. They are developing confidence in their physical skills and are secure emotionally enabling them to express their needs. The childminder has a sound understanding of the needs of younger children and provides appropriate activities and resources to support their physical and emotional development.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The organisation of the setting ensures that children are well cared for where the childminder is experienced and able to meet the needs of all the children. Policies and procedures protect children and are effectively implemented to promote all the outcomes for children. The childminder and his wife have appropriate checks and children would never be left unsupervised with unvetted adults. As joint childminders they are able to provide a flexible service to the families and ensure that children's needs are well met at all times. They are both attending training and workshops over the coming months to further update their skills and knowledge.

The organisation of the environment, equipment and toys ensures that children's needs are met and helps them to make good progress. The childminder has well organised documentation that helps to keep the children safe. However the recent medication records did not show when medicines had been administered by the childminder. Documents are stored appropriately, are up-to-date and are available for inspection.

Overall the needs of the children are being met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was recommended to put a complaints procedure into place and a system of recording any complaints made. This has now been addressed and a suitable complaints procedure is now in place.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure that contact details and mobile phone are available when on outings in case of emergency
- ensure that a written record of medications administered is kept on file

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk